

Appl. No. 10/606,707  
Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 6 are amended to require a preferred acid value for the polymer binder of from 10 to 50. this preferred range is described in the specification at page 30, lines 7-12. New claims 11 and 12 are added concerning content of certain components (see page 13, lines 13-17 and page 30, lines 1-6 of the specification).

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Higashi et al. (EP 1096 314 A1).

The Examiner states in the outstanding Office Action:

"The alkali-soluble urethane binder of Higashi et al., which is obtained by the reaction between (A) a diisocyanate compound containing an ethylenically unsaturated group and (B) a dial compound containing an alkali-soluble group, meets the present limitations of the addition polymerizable ethylenically double bond-containing monomer as claimed, and the addition polymerizable compounds of Higashi et al. including the polyfunctional acrylates and methacrylates meet the present limitations for the polymer binder." (See pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action.)

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However, nowhere does Higashi et al. show or suggest that the light sensitive composition or planographic printing plate precursor comprises a polymer binder having an acid value of from 10 to 150. Higashi et al. do not discuss or otherwise show or suggest a polymer binder having the presently claimed requirement of an acid value of from 10 to 150. Accordingly, claims 1-10 are not anticipated by Higashi et al.

In order to demonstrate criticality of the acid value of the polymer binder as claimed, comparative tests were carried out employing polymer binders from the closest prior art. The results are summarized in Table 3 of the executed DECLARATION attached hereto.

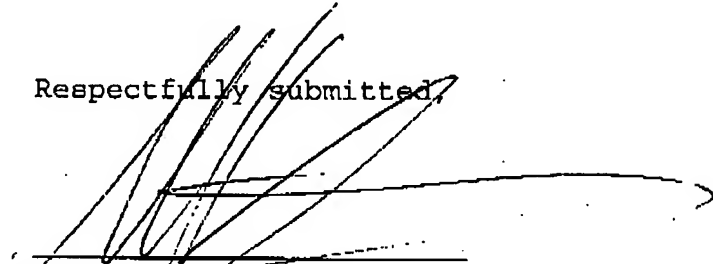
As can be seen from Table 3 of the DECLARATION, inventive light sensitive planographic printing plate precursor sample 102 and 103 (acid values 12 and 145 respectively) provide higher initial printability as compared with comparative light sensitive planographic printing plate precursor sample samples 101 and 104 (acid values 8 and 155 respectively). That is, inventive samples provide reduced loss of printing paper. The results are unexpected to one of ordinary skill in the art.

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In view of the above, it is submitted that the present invention is not shown or suggested by the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Enc. Executed DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.132  
of Toshiyuki MATSUMURA dated October 8, 2004